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LETTER DATED 27 AUGUST 1993 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

With reference to the continuing violations of relevant Security Council resolutions by the Serbian insurgents in the Republic of Croatia, as well as to the deployment of Serbian troops from Serbia and the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the territory of the Republic of Croatia, I have the honour to present pertinent information as well as the position of the Government of the Republic of Croatia.

According to the findings of the delegation of the Republic of Croatia for negotiations with local Serbian authorities which were presented to the Co-Chairmen of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia in July and August of this year, Serbian insurgent forces in the United Nations Protected Areas (UNPAs) and "pink zones" in the Republic of Croatia were reinforced in men and military equipment from the territories of Serbia and the Serbian-controlled regions in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. These units were deployed in the areas of norther Dalmatia, Lika, and partly in Banija and Kordun.

The newly arrived enemy forces consisted of the following:

- A battalion (approximately 600 fully equipped men reinforced with artillery) from the "2nd Krajina corps" of the "Republika Srpska army" which arrived in the area of Benkovac from the territory of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the middle of July. This battalion was recently joined by another battalion in the same area;

- During the same time period, groups of volunteers from Serbia, numbering approximately 1,300 to 1,500 soldiers, arrived on the territory of the Republic of Croatia, especially in the area of northern Dalmatia, and were sent directly to the front lines;

- 150 to 200 officers and junior officers from the army of Yugoslavia are deployed in the so-called "15th Lika Corps" and the "7th Knin Corps" of the illegal Serbian armed forces on Croatian territory;

- One battalion of the so-called "First Krajina Corps" from the Serbian-controlled region of Bosnia is on Croatian territory and is facing the Muslim- and Croat-populated region of Cazinska Krajina in western Bosnia;

- One brigade of Serbs from the Serbian-controlled region of Bosnia has crossed the Sava River on to the territory of the Republic of Croatia, where they occasionally invade the area of Western Slavonia in Croatia.

On the basis of these and other data in our possession, we estimate that some 6,000-7,000 armed men, along with artillery and one armoured battalion (40 tanks), have infiltrated the UNPAs in the Republic of Croatia from Serbia and Serbian-controlled regions of Bosnia. This intensified militarization in the UNPAs, Sectors North and South, is an indication of possible increased military activities which are being planned in Serbian political and military centres. This is further confirmed by the evacuation of civilians from certain Serbian-occupied regions of Croatia in order to create favourable conditions for military action.

Acts of armed aggression by Serbian insurgents and paramilitary units, operating in the Republic of Croatia, have intensified. The following is a chronological report of recent shelling of Croatian towns by Serbian insurgents:

23 August 1993: the towns of Vlajici, Kasic, Lakici, Novigrad, Gornji Planjani, Vodice, Kljuc, Dugeci, Islam Grcki, Posedarije, as well as the Maslenica bridge and Zemunik airport, were shelled;

24 August: the towns of Pavlici, Modruski Sabljaci, Josipdol, Unesic, Posedarije, Vlajici, Drinovci, Cavoglave, Nova Glava, Prkos, Suhovare, Senj, Smokovic, Donji Zemunik, Kasic, Drvenjak, Buzovi, Dubravice, Seline, Bila Vlaka, Stankovci, as well as the Maslenica bridge and Zemunik airport, were shelled;

25 August: the towns of Ivanovac, Komletinci, Ivanovac, Slana, Novigrad, Kasic, Otocac, Dubravice, Prispo, Jasenice, Islam Grcki, Rovanjska, Potravlje, as well as the police station in Pakrac and the Maslenica bridge, were shelled;

26 August: the towns of Ivanovac, Tvdjavica, Lipik, Novigrad, Kulusici, Nova Glava, Bristane, Dubravice, Plana, Stankovci, Jovici, Kasic, Gajine, Podgradina, Posedarje, Biograd, as well as the city of Zadar and the Maslenica bridge, were shelled;

27 August: the towns of Tvrdavica, Vurot, Sikovo, Nova Glava, Prkos, Filip Jakov, Veli Vrh, Posedarje Vrana, Smrdelj, Biograd, Donji Zemunik, Podgradina, Galpovac, Stankovci, as well as the city of Zadar, Zemunik airport and the Maslenica bridge, were shelled.

In the Serb rocket and tank attack of 26 August on Biograd and the ancient city of Zadar, two civilians were killed.

These acts by Serbian insurgents operating in the Republic of Croatia, as well as the arrival of armed units from Serbia and Serbian-controlled areas of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, represent gross violations of Security Council resolutions 724 (1991), 740 (1992), 752 (1992), 762 (1992), 779 (1992), 802 (1993) and 847 (1993), in which, inter alia, the Council called for the disbanding and disarming of paramilitary formations in the UNPAs.

The above-mentioned acts demonstrate the unwillingness of the local Serbian authorities to resolve outstanding problems through discussions and represent direct attacks against the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Croatia, a State Member of the United Nations. Therefore, these violations of internationally accepted norms of behaviour call for the strongest possible condemnation by the world community. They also make it all the more apparent that the United Nations and the United Nations Protection Force on the territory of the Republic of Croatia need to take stronger and more resolute action in the implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions.

I should be grateful if you would provide for the distribution of this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladimir DROBNJAK
Chargé d'affaires a.i.